



William H.
Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Benjamin Ivey
bivey@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Archie Herrin, Columbia
Chris Webb, Jackson
Sharon Neff, Cleveland
John Price, Charleston
Dwayne Parker, Flora
Paul Sims, Pontotoc

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 135 • NUMBER 11
(ISSN-0005-5778)
Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi churches.
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS.
Member, Association of State Baptist Papers.
Deadlines: News items — one calendar
week prior to requested publication date.
Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to
requested publication date. All submissions
are subject to editing.

In the name of celebrity worship

For the average Martian who lands on earth, it must be truly difficult to understand the fame and fortune that America provides its celebrities. While the northern half of the world's third largest economy — until recently the world's second largest economy — has virtually disappeared along with many of its inhabitants due to a history-making earthquake and subsequent tsunami, we spend hours in front of our televisions trying to get a glimpse of Britney Spears' cellulite and Brad Pitt's latest sexy photos.

The Middle East may be in flames and our foreign oil supply may be in jeopardy, but what we really want to know are the latest vulgar shenanigans of the Kardashians and Lindsay Lohan. It appears we are much more interested in spending our time preying on the private lives of celebrities than we are praying for the lost.

We adore celebrities. We can't get enough of them, and it seems the worse their behavior the more we crave knowledge about them. We obviously prefer the Jersey Shore lifestyle over the Christian lifestyle. Even celebrity wife beaters are elevated to god-like status.

There is apparently no indignity we won't swallow to keep this insanity going, but occasionally someone or some situation comes along that stuns even the most jaded celebrity worshippers. Such is the twisted saga of James Frey.

Avid readers will remember Frey for his perverse 2003 autobiographical book, *A Million Little Pieces*. That book, of course, was proven to be a massive fraud filled with lies and misleading descriptions about his life experiences. He initially defended the book as a true and realistic depiction of his life, but was ultimately forced to admit his artifice on national television and include an author's note in all subsequent printings of the book.

Frey received his just dues, of course, American style. He immediately achieved celebrity status and signed a seven-figure, three-book deal with one of the largest publishers in the U.S. How has Frey used this second chance at public redemption? Frey has taken it upon himself to self-publish his latest

masterpiece, *The Final Testament of the Holy Bible*. Apparently no legitimate publisher will touch it.

According to a March 14 article in the New York Post, Frey's lead character in the book, Ben Jones, is depicted as the Messiah, a destitute alcoholic and pot smoker in the Bronx who impregnates a prostitute, seduces men, and teaches his followers that the Bible is "antiquated" and "meaningless."

The Post also quotes Jones the Messiah in the book as preaching, "Faith is what you use to oppress, to justify, to judge in the name of God... a means to rationalize more evil in this world than anything in history. If there were a devil, faith would be his greatest invention."

Lovely. Frey told the Post that the novel is "a theoretical third volume of the Bible — there was the Old, there was the New, and this is the Final. I'm sure the religious right will go crazy because the story of Ben... is hardly the Messiah they have in mind. But I don't really care... I tried to write a radical book... I'm releasing it in a radical way."

Apparently, part of his radical strategy is to release the book on Good Friday for "maximum impact in the U.S.," the Post article noted.

It should surprise no one if Frey's latest handiwork is a huge success, despite his track record of untruthfulness and deceit. Shame on America for glorifying such trash, in the name of celebrity worship and at the expense of our Lord and Savior.

Jesus Christ is hardly the figure presented in novels like *The Final Testament of the Bible*, but it's not by accident that He is almost always presented in modern literature and the entertainment industry as loathsome, licentious, and self-serving.

In truth, He is the resurrected Son of God who sits at the right hand of the Father, dressed in robes of pure radiance the brightness of which we cannot imagine. He is indeed coming again, but it won't be as a sexually opportunistic alcoholic and drug user in a dingy New York City borough.

Some of us get that, and some of us don't. It makes a difference. It really does. On that fateful day of judgment, let there be no doubt which side each of us has chosen.



| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lamar County March 21, 2011 9 AM | Lamar County Courthouse 403 Main St Purvis 39475 | Jones County March 24, 2011 4 PM | Jones County Courthouse 415 North 5th Ave Laurel 39440 |
| Forrest County March 21, 2011 11 AM | Forrest County Multipurpose Center Parking Lot 962 Sullivan Rd Hattiesburg 39401 | Desoto County March 28, 2011 10 AM | Hernando Baptist Church 11 East Center St Hernando 38632 |
| Perry County March 21, 2011 2 PM | Perry County Courthouse 103 Main St New Augusta 39462 | Marshall County March 28, 2011 2 PM | Marshall County Courthouse 128 W. Van Dorn Ave Holly Springs 38635 |
| Pearl River County March 21, 2011 4 PM | Pearl River County Courthouse 200 S. Main St Poplarville 39470 | Lafayette County March 28, 2011 4 PM | Lafayette County Courthouse 1 Courthouse Square North Steps Oxford 38655 |
| Jefferson Davis County March 24, 2011 9 AM | Jefferson Davis County Courthouse (lawn) 911 Third St Prentiss 39474 | Pontotoc County March 29, 2011 9 AM | Pontotoc Town Square 59 S. Main St Pontotoc 38863 |
| Covington County March 24, 2011 11 AM | Covington County Courthouse (lawn) 101 S. Dogwood Ave Collins 39428 | Lee County March 29, 2011 11 AM | Lee County Justice Center 200 W. Jefferson Tupelo 38804 |
| Jones County March 24, 2011 2 PM | Jones County Courthouse 101 North Court St Ellisville 39437 | Itawamba County March 29, 2011 2 PM | Itawamba County Courthouse 201 East Main Fulton 38843 |
| | | Monroe County March 29, 2011 4 PM | Frisco Park 109 Main St Amory 38821 |

Pakistan Christians suffer assassinations

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (BP) — Shahbaz Bhatti, the only Christian adherent in Pakistan's government, was assassinated March 2 after pushing for reform of harsh blasphemy laws that mandate death for people who turn away from or "insult" Islam.

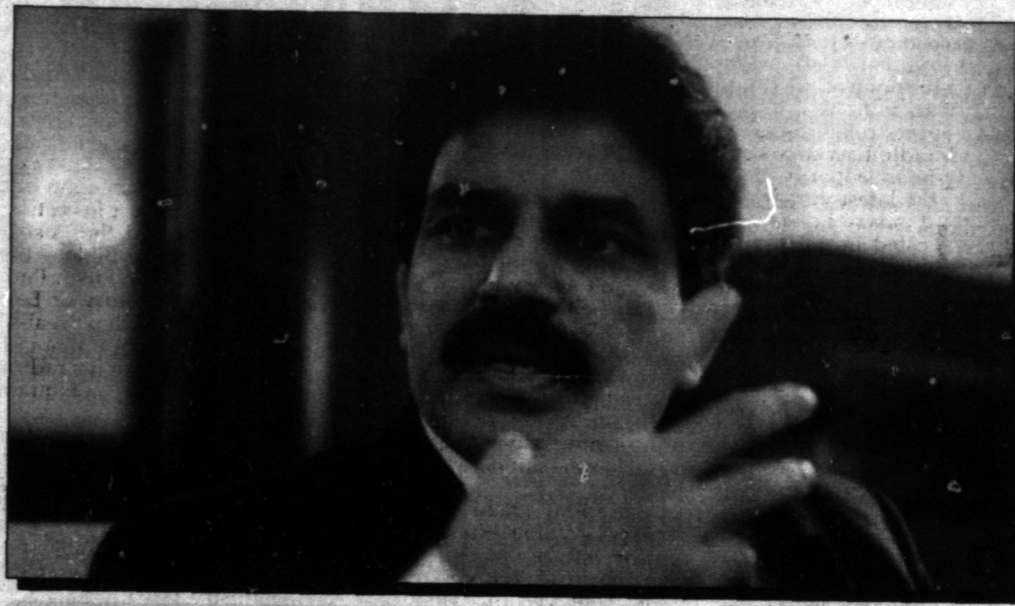
More than 10,000 people, including Christians, Sikhs, Hindus, and Muslims, attended Bhatti's burial March 4 in Khushpur. Banners and posters Pakistan's minister of minorities, were set up in the streets.

"Shahbaz Bhatti, son of the Nation, will be missed," one banner read. Songs rang out as well as such chants as, "We will carry on your mission Bhatti."

At one memorial service a teenager stood up and asked those attending if they thought anyone in the world had ever heard of Shahbaz Bhatti before the tragic shooting. "No," she said, answering her own question, "but this week, everybody with a television could hear him testify about Jesus Christ. Even after death, God has used Shahbaz Bhatti for His work!"

Bhatti predicted his own assassination and recorded a message months ago that was to be released upon his death and now has been viewed all over the world. "I am living for my community and for suffering people," Bhatti said directly into the camera, "and I will die to defend their rights. I prefer to die for my principles and for the justice of my community rather than to compromise."

Bhatti's assassination in Islamabad was the second this year of a Pakistani politician who wanted to reform the controversial blasphemy laws. Two months ago, Punjab province governor Salam Taseer was killed when he publicly supported Asia Bibi, a Christian woman sentenced to death under the blasphemy law.



ASSASSINATED — Pakistan's Christian minority spent the weekend of March 5-6 paying respect to the man who openly stood for his faith in a nation known for persecuting Christians.

"If I change my stance today, who will speak out? I am mindful that I can be assassinated anytime, but I want to live in history as a courageous man."

Bhatti's assassination in Islamabad was the second this year of a Pakistani politician who wanted to reform the controversial blasphemy laws. Two months ago, Punjab province governor Salam Taseer was killed when he publicly supported Asia Bibi, a Christian woman sentenced to death under the blasphemy law.

Even with three days set aside by the government for mourning, a Christian worker said many in Pakistan's Christian community found it hard to speak openly about Bhatti or their feelings for fear they would be targeted for persecution.

"On a normal day, Christians are the persecuted minority here," said longtime worker Worth Ballinger (not his real name), explaining that only 1.5% of Pakistan's 185 million people profess to be Christian.

"People are hiding their emotions for the most part, except where they have been protesting," he said.

Hundreds of women with black flags marched on March 4 in Khushpur, demanding the murderers be captured and hanged. Tears flowed in front of Bhatti's family home where a large portrait of him stood.

In Islamabad, Christians who were denied the chance to say a final goodbye to Bhatti at a memorial service protested across the street from the Catholic church. In other places around the country, crowds were calm and well behaved, enduring their grief and pain.

Ballinger said some Christians are encouraging one another to be people of hope and courage and to show love in this difficult time. Several college students reminded those attending a memorial service that they were to "love our enemies" and to "be witnesses in this place."

"Why do you think God has birthed us in this country?" one student asked fellow mourners. "It's to give a testimony for Jesus Christ. We must give a faithful testimony here so that people around the world can know the truth about Jesus."

Pakistani Christians are calling for prayer, including:

- Punjabi Christians and believers around Pakistan who are more than ever threatened and without legal protection. They are not treated as equal citizens and have little rights in the area of religious expression.

- God's use of Shahbaz Bhatti's witness to encourage Christians to speak out for their faith in the face of persecution.

- More fearless Christian leaders to rise to positions of power who will provide more freedom for Christians to practice their faith.

Looking back

10 years ago

A. Joseph King, Southwestern Seminary professor of conducting and associate dean of the school's performance division, is installed as the first occupant of the Robert L. Burton Chair of Conducting. Burton was King's former professor and former minister of music at First Church, Brookhaven.

20 years ago

In what may be a wartime first, the number of professions of faith exceeds the number of U.S. casualties during Operation Desert Storm. At least 1,200 professions of faith were recorded by Southern Baptist chaplains serving in the Persian Gulf.

30 years ago

First Church, Newton, holds dedication services for their new \$102,000 education annex Mar. 5. Chester L. Quarles, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, delivers the dedication message. J.N. Triplett, pastor.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MARCH 17, 2011

VOL. 135

No. 11



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer
with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my
sins and freedom from eternal
death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose
from the grave to forgive my
sins and to restore my relationship
with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus
Christ into my life. From this
time on, I want to live in a loving
relationship with Him. (I
receive Christ as my Savior
and Lord.)

"But as many as received him,
to them he gave the right to become
children of God, even to those who
believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact a
local Baptist church for spiritual
guidance.

BIBLIOPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
© 2005

KJQ LQPK CUV ANJL
DQKJ AQDOD TNWH-
LZ OLKN JHW, ULC
DUHKJ, MQJNSC KJQ
SUWM NB ZNC, GJHTJ
KUFQKJ UGUV KJQ DHL
NB KJQ GNXSC.

ANJL NLQ: KGQLKV-
LHLQ

Clue: G = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark One: Eleven

PRAYER POINTS — MORNING MEETINGS

As we encourage people to be a part of Covering Mississippi in Prayer, we keep asking folks to join in a prayer time before eight o'clock each morning. While prayer can take place anywhere and anytime day or night, as you prepare to go to work, or school, or to begin your daily routine, what a marvelous thing it is to meet with the Father and to hear from God before talking with everyone else. Jesus seemed to practice this and it is beautifully stated in Mark 1:35, "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." I am convinced that if you develop a morning meeting with the Lord, it will be an enriching and long-term inspirational experience. What can happen in these morning meetings?

First, there can be communion with God. Can you imagine Jesus going out alone to a solitary place, and there He meets and talks with the Father before any interaction with the disciples or challenges from His opponents? If you see prayer as a wonderful meeting with God — the One who made you, knows you, loves you, forgives you, and will lead you through the day — it can make a wonderful difference just to commune with Him. Actually, it can change your approach to prayer and make a difference in your attitude about prayer. If at times your prayer life becomes dull, dreary, or even dreaded, realize that it is a magnificent opportunity for you to spend time with our great Creator God.

A friend of mine had the opportunity to be at the White House and was invited to come and meet with the President in the Oval office. He was telling me about the event and the amount of time



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Prayer Points

that the President gave him and a few others. He was just absolutely giddy as he told about the meeting. While I have never been there, I was impressed that he got to go. I thought about what an incredible privilege I have in being invited by the God of all the ages to come and meet with Him and spend as much time as I would like just visiting with Him.

The second thing that can happen out of this morning meeting is consistency can be put in place. Virtually every area of discipline in life is eroded by lack of consistency. You can be preparing for a marathon, studying a foreign language, or trying to stay on a diet, and one of the essential components of your success will be consistency. It is also true in the spiritual life or in this case, the dimension of your prayer life. I am not talking about forming a habit in your life to pray, but an unalterable consistency of wanting to meet with God. I am talking about being consistent in meeting with God simply, studiously, and day by day. If you do that over a period of time, that consistency will pay rich dividends. It will be difficult to get away from that living pattern.

A third feature of the morning meetings is contentment. Let's suppose that each morning you faithfully meet with God and look over your entire day. There are some

things that you need to deal with because they are routine. There are other things that may be challenging or difficult to deal with, and you know they are out there and you will face them. You hold them up to God. Of course there are those things that are just absolutely off the radar, the unknowns you will face in the day. Prayer can so lock you into God that you will be assured of His presence throughout the day. Whatever you are facing there will be a contentment reigning in your heart. Isaiah said, "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, shifting waves that seem to go one way and then another but always in turmoil and dis-

content" (Isa. 57:20). The man or woman who walks with God in prayer finds an unusual, even amazing sense of contentment that comes over their heart.

A fourth thing that grows out of the morning meetings is conclusion. I am not speaking of just the fact that the prayer time ends. I am speaking of the fact that the prayer time does not end. The conclusion leads into an unending series of events in which you can triumphantly rest in God's love for you and with a confidence that you know He is going to provide day after day. The immediate prayer moment may cease, but it leads to a bold faith. You know that as you walk through the day, God will neither leave you nor forsake you.

If you have been meeting with Him in the mornings, keep it up. If for some reason you started, got diverted, and stopped, start over. If you started, stopped, and just got stuck in doing nothing and going nowhere, allow the Lord to come and reinvigorate you and to carry you along in the days ahead. Meet Him in the mornings!

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: 3 - ROUND TABLES - 8 square tables w/glass top, two styles of chairs, green booths w/ four tables. call 601-218-6075.

DO YOU NEED A CHURCH PIANIST? We have piano CDs for churches to sing by! Hymns, Easter, Gospel, Choruses. Praise - Call Worship Service Resources 1-877-977-6800. FREE DEMO! Special Church Pricing! www.wsplanocds.com.

TRADITIONAL, CONSERVATIVE, GROWING SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH IN MEMPHIS, TN METROPOLITAN AREA. SEEKS MINISTER OF YOUTH AND RECREATION. Send resume by April 15 to Personnel, Covenant Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1165, Collierville, TN 38027-1165.

PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, KOSCIUSKO, IS SELLING "PARKWAY POTLUCK FAVORITES" COOKBOOKS. Each book contains 750 recipes in a hardback binder with stand and are \$15.00. Please contact the church office to order your copy at 662-289-1222.

FOR RENT, GULF FRONT 2 BEDROOM CONDOMINIUM on Okaloosa Island, Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. Low Owner Rates call Lucy 770-831-3651. e-mail LucyClark@aol.com God Bless

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC. old Bibles rebound. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to 601-483-7958 or call 800-368-2705.

FOR SALE: SIX-TIER LIGHTED PATRIOTIC SINGING FLAG (ELIZABETHTOWN, KY). Used for choir cantatas. Manufacturer's construction/lighting instructions included. Photos available. POC: John Rice, john@severnvalley.org or 270-765-7822.

GATLINBURG CONDO FOR RENT: 2 bd/2ba, full kitchen, walk to pkwy. \$70/night. 832-922-0401/pdww4760@att.net

FOR SALE: 4 CEMETERY PLOTS FOR SALE in Lakewood Cemetery, best offer. Call 601-268-3415 or sdj987@aol.com.

EVERYONE NEEDS TO GET AWAY BETSY'S LIL' CABINS at Lake Lincoln State Park. rents nightly or \$250.00 a week. For details Call 601-940-6841 or 601-643-8817.

GET THE BEST RATES ON: Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com

SINGING FOR JESUS "BY HIS GRACE QUARTET", with Michael and Allison: We'll sing for your church, special programs, senior group, church fund raisers, etc. Call Billy Reeves for FREE CD AND SCHEDULE - 601-859-0876 - 601-940-2455.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970

STAINED GLASS, NEW WINDOWS AND REPAIRS. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

FOR SALE: 1800 WINDSOR CHICAGO Pump Organ, good condition, \$800. 601-373-4004.

FOR SALE SIX CEMETERY PLOTS in Lakewood Cemetery, Clinton Blvd. \$1200 each. Call 601-573-6467

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING RESUMES THROUGH APRIL 30, 2011 for a full time experienced Southern Baptist Pastor. If possible, send DVD of sermon with resume. Mail to Calvary Baptist Church Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 740236, Tusculum, AL 35674.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, AL. Rent Direct from Christian Family Owners. Lowest Prices on the Beach. Spring Special 4 Nights Eff Unit (2 adults & kids) \$444. Includes Everything. 1,2 & 3 Bedroom units also available. Even lower prices for those in the Ministry. 205-556-0368 205-752-1231. www.gulfshorescondos.com

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, Christian owned. All home improvements - vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. 601-992-2092, Don & Rita Sebre, owners.

Christian Action COMMISSION

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES for Christian Living

WWW.CHRIStIANACtION.COM • VOLUME 13 • ISSUE 1

Considering immigration reform as both Christians and citizens

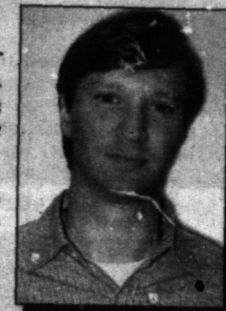
By Rob Chambers
Miss. Baptist Christian Action Comm.

The following commentary on immigration reform is authored in part by The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

The time has come for our nation to resolve its immigration dilemma. It is imperative that we find an acceptable solution to the disposition of the millions of undocumented immigrants living in our nation.

Currently, the two extremes of deportation and amnesty are being played against each other, resulting in a stalemate in Congress. We believe that neither of the two extremes are appropriate, workable solutions. To force those who are here illegally to leave is neither politically viable nor humanitarian. To offer blanket amnesty to those who broke the immigration laws of our country and their own countries is disrespectful of the rule of law. What is needed is a solution that respects the rule of law while at the same time treats undocumented immigrants in the nation compassionately.

As Christians, we acknowledge that we must think through the question of illegal



Chambers

immigration not only as offended, concerned citizens, but also as compassionate Christians. Jesus instructed His followers to love all men, even those who hate them (see Luke 6:27-38).

He instructed His followers to meet the needs of those who are suffering (Matthew 25:31-46). The writer of the Book of Hebrews instructed his readers to "show hospitality to strangers" (Hebrews 13:2).

As Christian citizens, we believe God has something to say to us about how our nation deals with this issue. We believe our nation must think about immigration from the perspective of all parties affected. We believe that God sought to teach Israel to think about justice in this way as well. He told His people, "You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor nor defer to the great, but you are to judge your neighbor fairly" (Leviticus 19:15).

The issue of immigration must also be considered from the perspective of the core values of the welcoming nation. God ordained civil government (Romans 13:1-7). He charged it with the responsibility of providing for the security, wellbeing, and protection of the people under its authority. As such, the civil authority has a responsibility to assure that its policies honor this charge from God.

While we are certain that many details must be addressed, we offer below what we consider to be the primary features of a just immigration policy. We believe these features incorporate our nation's core values and God's guidance for the treatment of immigrants in a way that respects both the rule of law and the dignity of the millions of men, women, and children who are currently living here illegally.

Secure Borders. We expect any system that is put in place to be able to prohibit illegal entry.

Appropriate and adequate penalties and requirements. If those who are here illegally desire to remain here, they must undergo a criminal background check, pay a fine, agree to pay back taxes, learn to speak, write, and read English and get in line

behind those who are legally migrating into this country in order to apply for permanent residence after a probationary period of years. They must also acknowledge and pledge allegiance to America's governmental structure, the duties of citizenship and our core values as embodied in the Declaration of Independence.

Adequate penalties for those who hire undocumented immigrants. Businesses that hire workers illegally do so for profit. Such businesses should be penalized for their own participation in the encouragement of illegal immigration and breaking the nation's employment and labor laws.

Paths to legal status. The nation should offer multiple forms of legal status with appropriate requirements for each. We propose that our nation pursue all these avenues simultaneously, such as citizenship, permanent or temporary legal residency, temporary worker, etc.

A dependable worker verification system. The government must provide businesses with a responsive, up-to-date system that enables them to verify a worker's status within one week.

Chambers can be contacted at 601-292-3331 or at rchambers@christianaction.com.

House committee votes to defend federal Defense of Marriage Act

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. House of Representatives officially got involved March 9 in defending the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) when a bipartisan leadership panel voted 3-2 along party lines to support the law in federal court.

The move by the House Bipartisan Leadership Advisory Group came two weeks after President Obama ordered the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to stop defending the act, which was signed into law in 1996 and defines marriage for federal purposes as between one man and one woman. A handful of federal lawsuits against it are pending.

House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) released a brief statement saying the House general counsel "has been directed to initiate a legal defense" of the

law, which passed in 1996 by super majorities of 84-15 in the Senate and 342-67 in the House and was signed by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The move by the advisory group does not require approval by the full House.

The decision by Obama not to defend DOMA was seen as highly unusual, as the Department of Justice often defends laws in court that are personally opposed by presidents.

Obama said he believes the law is unconstitutional. Although a court ruled it unconstitutional in 2010, other federal courts have upheld it. Observers expect the DOMA lawsuit will eventually come before the U.S. Supreme Court.

"This action by the House will ensure that this law's consti-

tutionality is decided by the courts, rather than by the President unilaterally," Boehner said. Joining Boehner in voting to defend the law were Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Virginia and Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy of California, all three Republicans. Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California and Minority Whip Steny Hoyer of Maryland, the two Democrats, voted against House action.

If the lawsuits against DOMA are successful, the federal government would be forced for the first time to recognize the same sex marriages of states such as Massachusetts, where the unions are legal, and grant federal benefits to same-sex couples. Eventually, all states could be forced to recognize the marriages.

"I'm delighted that the House leadership is going to take up the defense of DOMA," Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, told Baptist Press. "It's always better to have an advocate who believes in the case making your arguments rather than an Obama administration flunky going through the motions."

Land and others had been critical of the way the Justice Department was defending the

law, saying the attorneys weren't using the best arguments in its defense. For instance, many courts have upheld traditional marriage laws on the basis that they're needed to encourage mother-father homes and "responsible" procreation. The Justice Department, though, refused to use those arguments.

"I am grateful the House will initiate a vigorous defense of the Defense of Marriage Act," said Southern Baptist Convention President Bryant Wright, pastor of Johnson Ferry Church in Marietta, Ga. "The principles upon which DOMA was overwhelmingly passed by Congress and signed into law by former President Clinton remain core values for the majority of Americans. I urge all Southern Baptists to remain diligent in prayer for our nation."

Technically, the current lawsuits only target half of the Defense of Marriage Act — the part that defines marriage in federal law. The other half of DOMA gives states the option of not recognizing another state's same sex marriages. Obama, though, has made clear he opposes the law and a March 2 story in The Los Angeles Times said homosexual groups are ready

to target the entire law if they win the current cases.

If the entire act is overturned, then pro-traditional marriage laws on the state level likely would be overturned — including in Mississippi — forcing all 50 states to recognize same sex marriages from states where the practice is legal.

"I applaud the House of Representatives for standing in the gap to defend traditional marriage," said Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee in Nashville.

"Historically, human procreation within the context of a loving nuclear family has formed the basis of a stable society. This creational pattern occurs in the union of a man and a woman in marriage, and is a central tenet in all religions. It has been the norm across all generations. It has been the ideal in virtually all cultures. I pray it will remain so in our beloved nation," Page said.

Edwin Feulner, president of the Heritage Foundation, a conservative group, said Obama's lack of defense may be for the best.

"DOMA deserves better than the half-hearted defense it has been getting so far," Feulner wrote in a Townhall.com column.

Call for free BROCHURE

BAPTISTRIES

HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679
www.liberglasschurchprod.com
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

CD or IRA Maturing?

Learn about a safe investment that beats low bank rates & avoid probate

Ask us about 7%
Guaranteed Income
Growth Rider

O'Mire Financial

1-800-844-3254
406 B Orchard Park Dr.
Ridgeland, MS 39157

MS POSITIONS

LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER at a small church in the Hattiesburg area. If you are interested please e-mail your resume to lisamapp@hotmail.com.

FBC BUDE IS LOOKING FOR A FULL-TIME MUSIC MINISTER for blended services. Resumes can be emailed to brad@fbcude.com.

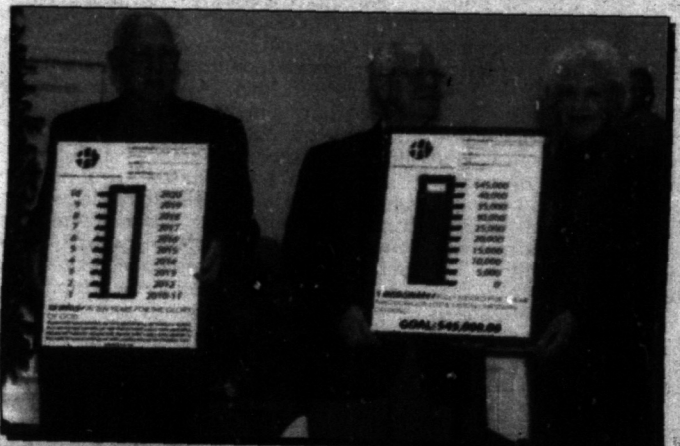
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF STONEWALL, MS IS SEEKING A FULL TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH. Interested candidates need to submit a resume and a DVD if possible to: FBC, Stonewall P.O. Box 1178, Stonewall, MS 39363. Any questions call 601-659-7607.

SELF CREEK SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH, OKTIBBEHA COUNTY, IS SEEKING A BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR. E-mail resume to: bandbutler@aol.com or mail to 2795 Brown Road, Starkville MS. 39759

FIRST BAPTIST NEW ALBANY IS TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR ORGANIST by calling 662-534-5812.



1. First Church, Belmont



2. Fair River Church, Brookhaven



3. Barry and Denise Corbett



4. Lester and Linda and Danny Prater



1. First Church, Belmont, recently retired the debt of \$439,200 on their Family Life Center. Shown are Jerry McNally, Terrell Pearson, Mark Maroon, Steve McNally, Bob Yarber, Mark Henry, and pastor Ray Burks.

2. Richard Douglas, Fair River Church, Brookhaven, celebrated the completion of the first well of the goal of ten wells in ten years. Also, Jerry and Bobbey Rankin celebrated the Lottie Moon Christmas offering of \$55,240.

3. First Church, Kosciusko, recently honored pastor Barry C. Corbett upon the celebration of his 20 years of ministry as pastor, including special recognitions during the morning worship service and a luncheon. Shown are Corbett and Denise Corbett.

4. First Church, Inverness, held a reception honoring Pricilla Lester for 47 years as church organist, Linda Prater for 24 years as minister of music, and Danny Prater for 30 years of service as pastor.

5. The Children in Action of Madden Church, Madden, participated in Children's Ministry Day by delivering cookies, flowers, and cards to members of the community for Valentine's Day. Shown are the participants.

6. The Brotherhood of Concord Church, Booneville, recognized Bobby Smart as the "Man of the Year" on Baptist Men's Day. Shown are Lyle Bullock and Smart.

7. The children and youth of Mt. Olivet Church, Scott County, recently presented a talent show. Shown are the participants. Bruce Robinson, pastor.

8. Central Church, Meridian's, Sunday School class for the first five years of marriage recently completed a 40-day Love Dare challenge. Shown are Craig & Christy Lea and Phillip & Bethany Garrett, who recommitted themselves to each other during a recent marriage commitment ceremony led by pastor Gary Blair.

9. East Philadelphia Church, Philadelphia, had older kids participate in a Pine Car Race. Shown are the participants.



5. Madden Church, Madden



6. Smart recognition



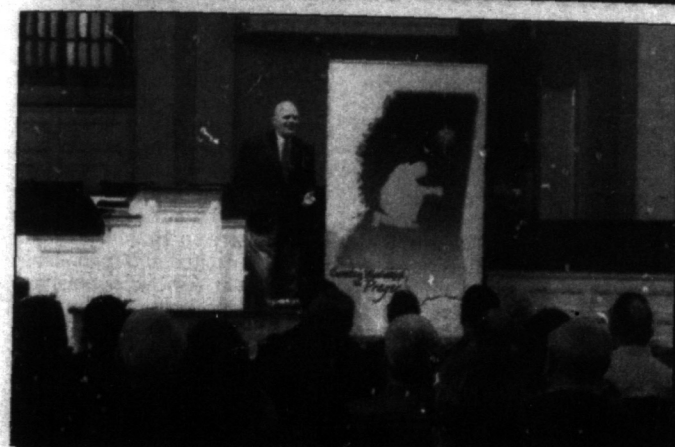
7. Mt. Olivet Church, Scott County



8. Central Church, Meridian



9. East Philadelphia Church, Philadelphia



10. First Church, Booneville

10. A Covering Mississippi in Prayer rally for Prentiss County was held at First Church, Booneville, on Feb. 28. Shown is speaker Jim Futral.

11. Dan Robertson, AMD, Golden Triangle Association, presented church music certificates to Russell Flood and Tommy Doughty, Sr., of Canaan Church, Columbus. Shown are Robertson, Flood, Doughty, and pastor PJ Mortensen.



11. Canaan Church, Columbus

Ezell: church planting to be focus of new NAMB strategy

ATLANTA (BP) — "It's a new day at NAMB," North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell said in addressing more than 400 associational directors of missions and church planting missionaries from across North America. "We're not just moving the deck chairs around."

Ezell spoke during NAMB's 2011 Associational Directors of Missions Forum on Feb. 21-23, and the Church Planting Missionary Forum on Feb. 23-25, both in Atlanta.

Setting forth NAMB's new Send North America evangelistic church planting strategy, Ezell said the mission board intends to change the conversation on church planting across the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

"We want to send a message to the SBC that our focus is on church planting and that we're trying to get our act together," Ezell said, adding that while church planting is NAMB's top priority, "it's not the only thing we do. We are not gutting evangelism. We will continue to do evangelism because you can't do church planting without evangelism. The purpose of everything we do is to bring people to Christ and penetrate lostness."

Ezell told the associational and church planting leaders that skepticism and negativity must end among NAMB, some of the 42 state conventions, and some of the 1,200 associations.

"We're too late in the process. People are dying and going to hell. Our resources are less than they once were. We don't have time to play games. We've got to be big boys and girls, get over it, and fix it. We cannot let down the next generation by being prideful and insisting on doing things the same way. We're going to do whatever it takes to get the job done."

Ezell, himself a former pastor, said since being named NAMB's president last September, he's traveled from Boston to Los Angeles visiting state conventions and associations, and that many state and association staff have visited NAMB.

"I think we can change the conversation," he said. "Leaders change the conversation. We're still refining the strategy together. It's not perfect yet. We just want to send out a clear message about what we are valuing and what we want to promote because we all have to change."

NAMB's overarching goal, Ezell said, is to focus first on evangelistic church planting that is infused with evangelism

and leadership development. "We want to mobilize and equip thousands of churches, along with the associations and existing church planting networks, to engage in church planting."

"A South Carolina pastor recently told me, 'My church wants to be involved in planting churches but we don't know how.' That's what we at NAMB want to help them do. As NAMB, the states, and as associations, we must begin to think Kingdom-wise to reach North America, not just think about our own church or our local association."

During his one-hour talk followed by questions and answers, Ezell outlined the five-region structure under which NAMB, the state Baptist conventions, and the associations will work together.

"We're not putting little 'Nambies' out there or buying buildings. We're not building a huge bureaucratic infrastructure in the regions," Ezell said. "It's not very glamorous."

The initial 25 cities listed in the Send North America emphasis "will not ultimately be the only cities we focus on" in the five regions, Ezell said. "It's not a matter of being the 24th city or the 35th city. We just want to mobilize Southern Baptists to plant churches where God leads them. We're not limited to the 25 cities."

NAMB also is at work in the area of leadership development, coaching and mentoring, but "we're not there yet," Ezell said. "We want to especially do a better job of supporting our bivocational pastors, who work very hard and get very little assistance."

Addressing the work of associational directors of missions, Ezell said NAMB is creating a new, jointly-funded strategic role for the directors of missions, a role more highly focused on NAMB's new Send North America strategy of planting churches, but also one that continues to assist struggling churches.

Ezell said some 200 jointly-funded missions directors will see their job title change to "church planting catalyst." Effective Jan. 1, the job description of the church planting catalysts will include:

- Mobilizing existing churches to engage in evangelistic church planting.
- Encouraging churches to engage in evangelistic activity.
- Encouraging and cultivating a pastor/leader skill set among pastors in the associations.



CHANGING COURSE — Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, set forth the Southern Baptist agency's new Send North America evangelistic church planting strategy during sessions with 400-plus associational directors of missions and church planting missionaries in Atlanta in late February. (BP photo)

• Personal involvement in planting a church and/or be a member of a church plant. This requirement is optional.

"Just because you don't feel like you need more churches in your association or state, that doesn't mean you can't mobilize your church to plant new churches somewhere else, say, in another state," Ezell said.

"The old scoreboard was about how many churches you planted in your association or state. The new scorecard is about how many churches in your state or association are planting churches in North America. It might be three in Mississippi and 30 somewhere else."

The jointly funded missions directors will be given an opportunity to receive training in order to maximize their strengths, equip them for their new role, and help them adjust to the new strategy, Ezell said.

Marc Bewley, jointly funded director of missions for the Blue Water Association in Chesterfield, Mo., for the most part liked what Ezell had to say.

"I spend 50-60% of my time in church planting now," said Bewley,

who has served in his current post the last three years. "I'm a firm believer in church planting and I think it's great that it's now NAMB's No. 1 priority."

"One thing that did concern me is there was a lot of generality in the new job description. I'd like to hear more details, and most of my churches are going to want more details. They're going to wonder if they'll be ignored since I'll be doing even more church planting," Bewley said.

Bewley said he didn't disagree with anything Ezell discussed. "I especially liked the part of not having so many hoops (involving NAMB, the Michigan state Baptist convention, and the local association) to jump through. I really like the new regional set-up, and look forward to working with Steve Davis," who has been named as the region's vice president for NAMB.

Bewley said he believes the Jan. 1, deadline for launching the new church planting catalyst jobs is a realistic time frame and "more than a generous amount of time to work through the issues."

Strategist aims for more African American missionaries

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A recent report from the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee affirms what Keith Jefferson, the new African American mobilization strategist for the International Mission Board (IMB), realized when he set foot on the mission field: God can use ethnic minorities in a big way.

The ethnic involvement report, containing a number of recommendations for greater ethnic diversity within all areas of Southern Baptist life including international missions, will be presented to messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting to be held in June in Phoenix.

African Americans "can serve God all around the world," Jefferson says, "not just in places that have people of African origin."

The call to missions is not optional, he says. "It is an obligation; it is a commandment; and no child of God can get around the Great Commission that Jesus gave us — preaching the Gospel to all peoples."

Jefferson spent 16 years as a Southern Baptist missionary sharing Jesus among Brazil's Quilombola people, descendants of escaped African slaves. More accustomed to traveling the Amazon Basin than sitting behind a desk, the role of African American mobilizer is new to Jefferson, who accepted the role following the retirement of David Cornelius last December.

"My focus is to encourage, challenge, and train African American churches and individuals in being on mission with God," Jefferson says. "Some think that missions is for people who are spiritual giants... Actually, it only takes a person who is available and willing, has the strength to get on and off an airplane and hold a conversation with somebody about the love of God."

A lack of exposure to international missions and sometimes-overwhelming domestic problems have led some ethnic congregations to be less involved overseas, as Jefferson sees it. He points out that though African Americans make up an estimated six percent of Southern Baptists, they represent less than one percent of IMB missionaries serving on the field.

"Honestly, I was a little bit irritated that he didn't think that my mission pastor work was sufficient," Jefferson laughs. "I mean, here I am, a mission pastor and a full-time chaplain. I am serving God."

When Cornelius asked Jefferson's wife Deborah the same question, she surprised her husband by immediately saying she would pray about it. After two fortuitous encounters

with missionaries from the two countries in which Cornelius had suggested the couple consider working, Jefferson says God confirmed the family's call to missions and within a year they were in Brazil.

"David [Cornelius] told me that in Brazil there are many people of African origin that were asking our missionaries, who at that time were all Caucasian, 'Are there black Christians in America?' and our missionaries said, 'My goodness, sure. There are many black Christians and black churches,' and they said, 'but you are here and they aren't. If there are black Christians, wouldn't they be here too?'"

"That was an awakening to me that there is such a lack of African Americans serving around the world."

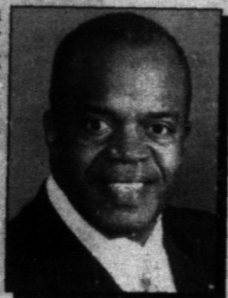
Among Jefferson's top priorities is a greater networking of African American churches to connect them with African American missionaries already overseas.

"We have African Americans serving on the field, and their city and state associations may not know that they're there," Jefferson says. "We want to put African American missionaries in front of congregations by video, voice, and Skype interviews."

Though he admits he misses his ministry in Brazil, Jefferson says he's excited about challenging African American believers to consider missions in the same way Cornelius challenged him.

"Working to bring more laborers to the field at my age (57), that's not a bad move. The roads are pretty rough into Quilombola villages," Jefferson laughs.

"A missionary can be from any background because there's someone that he can reach that no one else can reach. That missionary with the black-rimmed glasses, he reached people that I could never reach. I can reach people that he'll never reach, and so God uses our unique personalities to click with somebody in another country."



Jefferson

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Walthall Church, Webster Association:** Revival, Mar. 27 - 30; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Phil Glisson, speaker; Joe Thompson, music.

2. **First Church, Belzoni:** 125th anniversary, Mar. 27; 10 a.m. - noon; guest speakers, special music, and lunch.

3. **Benton Church, Yazoo County:** Revival, Mar. 20 - 23; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Steve Jackson, speaker; R.L. and Beth Sigrest, music; Charles Moore, pastor.

4. **Southside Church, Vicksburg:** Revival, Mar. 27 - Apr. 1; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Don Savell, speaker.

5. **First Church, Boyle:** Revival, Mar. 27 - 30; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Jimmy McLendon, speaker.

6. **Linwood Church, Union:** Revival, Mar. 27 - 30, 7 p.m.; Steve Robinson, speaker; David Richardson, music; Mike Skinner, pastor.

7. **Fellowship Church, Taylorsville:** Revival, Apr. 3 - 6; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Donnie Guy, speaker; Bob Thames, music.

MSAudio LLC

Design & Integration of Professional Audio, Video, & Lighting
Church, Conference Room, School
Equipment sales, service and installation

Trooper Hales P.O. Box 1575 Ph 601-923-9947
info@msaudiollc.com Clinton, MS 39060 Fax 601-924-2880

Medicare Supplement!!

JUST SAY NO To High Premium Increases on Medicare supplements.

We Save Some People Over \$1,000 a year

1.800.844.3254
O'Mire Agency

406 Orchard Park • Ridgeland, MS 39157

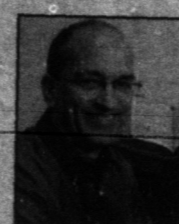
READ THE BIBLE FOR LIFE

a part of the READ THE BIBLE FOR LIFE initiative by George Guthrie

April 15-16



PLENARY SPEAKER
DAVID PLATT



TRAINING SESSION LEADER
GEORGE GUTHRIE



SPECIAL GUEST
MICHAEL CARD

Breakout sessions led by faculty of the School of Theology and Missions

Focuses on interpreting and applying the Bible well. Ideal for pastors, Sunday school teachers, Bible study leaders and anyone who wants to learn more from the Bible.

\$50, early registration (before March 23); also, group rate (10 or more). Includes all sessions, two meals, continental breakfast.

More information: 731.661.5579 or
www.uu.edu/events/ReadTheBibleForLife

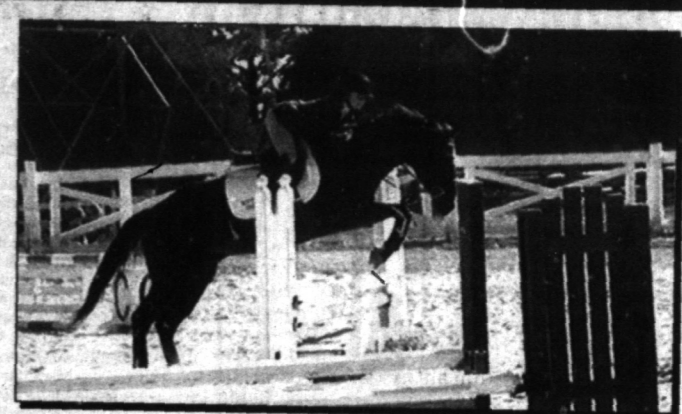


COLLEGE NEWS

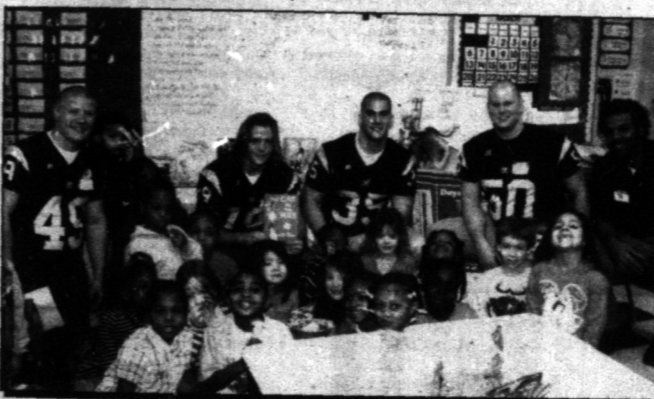
1. The new William Carey University Student Government Association (SGA) officers for the 2011 - 2012 school year are: (front row, left to right) Sarah Nobles of Purvis; Deepali Amatya of Lalitpur, India; Bibhusha Pradhan of Kathmandu,

Nepal; Courtney Daley of Carson; Marian Mauseh of Indianola; Amanda Sumrall of Clinton; Torrie Atkins of Hattiesburg; and Nafiyah Younes of Picayune. (back row, left to right) Laila Younes of Picayune; Nina Tassin of Richland Hills, Texas;

Rachel Harris of Petal; Jay Hollifield of Pascagoula; Randi Clark of Purvis; Colton Lee of Poplarville; Jonathan Clements of Petal; Nicky Holland of Meridian; Anton Haeggloef of Stockholm, Sweden; Benjamin Gerhart of Millport, Ala.; Patrick Earley of Raceland, La.; Quinton Soronen of Collinsville; and Chelsey Maywalt of Carriere.



1. William Carey University SGA



2. Read Across America

Travel with other Baptists and your Baptist Chaplain, Rev. Roy Myers

Ireland

Depart July 14, 2011

Enjoy the Cooler Irish Weather!

12 Days from \$1449*

Visit the best of Ireland on this comprehensive tour of both Northern and Southern Ireland, visiting all the major highlights.

Travel with other Southern Baptists and your chaplain, Rev. Roy Myers taking his seventh YMT trip as a Baptist Chaplain. Rev. Myers has served for 43 years as pastor of several churches in Mississippi. Your group will arrive in historic Dublin, capital city of the "Emerald Isle." Enjoy an included city tour including Trinity College (housing the Book of Kells), Dublin Castle, and St. Patrick's Cathedral built in 450 AD, then rebuilt in 1191, still the largest church in Ireland. Take a scenic drive across the southern part of Ireland and see the Rock of Cashel, a cluster of historic ruins atop a towering hilltop. Visit Cork, a pretty seaside town, set above a harbor that was the Titanic's last port of call. Visit Cork, the Blarney Castle and Blarney Stone, and tour Killybeggs with a leisurely boat cruise on one of Killybeggs' many lakes. You'll also visit Kenmare, and Tralee; drive the "Ring of Kerry" and tour a restored mansion, and Bunratty Castle, built in 1425. Travel the coast of Galway, Limerick, visit the Cliffs of Moher, Kylemore Abbey, and Sligo. Tour Belleek Pottery, Enniskillen, Ulster, Belfast, The Giant's Causeway and more. Fly home from Dublin. This guided tour includes 16 meals first class hotels, daily included sightseeing and has been designed for the first time American visitor. Our July departure was chosen to be in Ireland when the daily high temperature averages only 65 degrees! *Price per pers., based on dbl. occ. Plus \$159 tax, service, gov't fees. Airfare is extra.

Space is limited and \$300 deposits are now due!

For information, reservations, itinerary, and letter from your chaplain with his phone number call 7 days a week:

1-800-736-7300

2. Mississippi College football players tackled a new assignment Mar. 2 as participants in Read Across America, a day to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Showing up in their Choctaws uniforms were MC tackle Justin Cardwell of Birmingham, defensive end Sam Maze of Arab, Alabama, linebacker Dallas Bogle of Crystal Lake, Illinois and receiver Randal Pharr of Memphis.

3. Mississippi College's equestrian team ended its fourth regular season by winning first-place honors at the March 6 competition at Murray State University. With Sunday's showing, MC topped Sewanee and Vanderbilt that finished tied for second place. MC's 27 points beat out Sewanee and Vanderbilt by two points. An MC freshman and Jackson Academy graduate, Heather Hays, shown, impressed the judges with a strong performance Sunday. She finished as the high point rider.

4. Students from such countries as China, Nepal, India, South Korea and

5. Randall Miller, Mississippi College, received the outstanding speaker award at a college debate tournament at Sam Houston State University. Miller was among 136 debaters at the double tournament on the Texas campus March 4-6. Other schools competing included East Texas Baptist, the University of Arkansas-Monticello, Louisiana College, the University of Central Arkansas and Sam Houston State.

6. Mississippi College School of Nursing is presenting its annual Health Fair on April 11th. The fair's theme is "Don't Jeopardize Your Health!" The event will be held at the Baptist Healthplex on the Clinton campus from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. This free fair will provide health screenings targeting adults who are 40-years-old and up. For more information about the Health Fair, contact the MC School of Nursing at 601-925-3391.

7. Mississippi College biology professor, Beth Dunigan has been named MC Distinguished Arts & Sciences Lecturer for the College of Arts and Sciences. The Clinton resident teaches human gross anatomy, biology, and comparative and developmental anatomy.

STAFF CHANGES

1. Calvary Church, Pascagoula, has called Mike Moreland as youth pastor.



1. Moreland

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our "special friends."

DECEMBER 16-31, 2010

MEMORIALS

Mrs. Inez Evans
Lucy Keene SSC, New Prospect BC
Frances Fisher
Mr. & Mrs. John Wayne VanHorn
Mrs. Edith M. Fitzgerald
Mrs. Virginia S. Marcus
Ms. Billie Ford
Russ & Barbara Ford
Katie Fortenberry
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Russell
Mr. Jesse Foster
Mr. Frank Brewer
Ruby Fullilove
John & Nancy Miller
Josephine B. Fulton
Bill & Patty Dickerson
Nita Gable
Mrs. Bobbye H. Hanks
Mrs. Irma Gant
Mr. & Mrs. Greg L. Wilkinson
A. C. Ganes, Jr.
Neal & Emily McLean
Mary Geoghegan
Bobby & Carolyn Harper
Mrs. Jimmie Germany
Carl & Donnie Coleman
Darryl Gibson
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest H. Cropp
Clay Gilliam
Mrs. Clayann Gilliam Panetta
Frances Graeber
Bill & Deena Barbee
Mrs. Ora Lindsay Graham
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Mrs. Dorothy Gray
Mr. & Mrs. Buck Pace
Eva Grayson
Mrs. Ruby R. Shelton
Mrs. Beulah Green
Rudy & Tommie Lou Green
Peggy Greenlee
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Russell
Lois K. Greer
Doug & Gail Johnston

Lloyd Griffin

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Allen
Mrs. Maggie Haggard
Mrs. Mary C. Gardner
Mrs. Neima Hakes
Mrs. Mildred E. Witcher
Bill Hamilton
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Allen
Kathryn Hardy
Ms. Bonnie Austin
Mrs. Edna Earle Harrington
Galilee BC, Gloster
Mr. & Mrs. Greg L. Wilkinson
Mrs. Lou Harrington
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Tramel Jr.
Capt. Anthony R. "Tony" Harris
Raymond & Betty Harris
Tyler & Heather Harris
R. F. "Bill" Harris
Steadfast Class, FBC Charleston
Evie Grace Harrison
Mr. & Mrs. Elmo Harrison
Carr Haskins
Ron & Nancy Craddock
Mr. Carl Haskins
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Haskins & Family
Susan Haskins
Ron & Nancy Craddock
Mrs. Wanda E. Schilling Henry
Ms. Julie K. Russell
Elaine Herring
Mr. W. B. Herring Jr.
Robert Hicks
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick
Charlie Hilburn
Bobby & Hilda Jo Woods
John Charles "Charlie" Hilburn
Robert & Carolyn Sullivan
Barbara Ann Hilderbrand
Mr. Otto Hilderbrand Jr.
Roy Hill
Jeannine & Henry Eaton
Edgar Hobbs
John & Nancy Miller
Jeffrey R. Hobgood
Randy & Karen Tabb
Rebecca Holland
Mr. & Mrs. John Wayne VanHorn
Mr. Jimmy Holloway
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins

Maurice Lee & Camille Honea
Mrs. Suzanne Honea
F. K. Horton Jr.
Ms. Lucile Horton
Mr. Tom Houston
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry L. Ivey
Hazel Howse
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest H. Cropp
Scott Humphreys
Glynn & Jean Jones
Frank Hurst, Jr.
Mr. Louis A. Hurst Jr.
Edward R. Jackson
Mr. James C. Peay
Mrs. Imogene Jackson
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Lanpton Johnson
Lindsay & Emma Lampton
Mr. Robert Johnson
Eddie & Jane Woodruff
Andrew Quitman Jones
Ms. Charlotte J. Hudson
Jessie Merle Jones
Calvary BC, Tylertown
Rev. Robert L. Jones
Glynn & Jean Jones
Mrs. Louis Kemp
Mrs. Lucille H. Harris
Mr. James A. Kidd
Mr. & Mrs. Lee A. Kidd
Jeri Kirkland
Mr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh
Mrs. Mona Sue Kuykendall
Mr. & Mrs. Don Perkins
Carrollton BC
Mrs. Estelle C. Cooper
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh
Mrs. Ann Lauber
Jim & Sarah Pilgrim
Meredith Brynne Lee
Billy & Shirley Hastings
Mrs. Margaret Lindley
Sterling & Glynda Davis
Norman "Ken" Lindvall
Frances & Rich Defenbaugh
Mrs. Dorothy Little
Gerald & Betty Wigington
Kaye Lofton
Barney & Paula Albritton
Raiford Long
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Allen
Mrs. Ella Mae Loper
Lucy Keene SSC, New Prospect BC
Bill Lucas
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick
Mrs. Barbara Manning
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
George Mansour
Teresa & Scooter Henderson
Nell Marine
Mack & Vera Burns & Family
Mrs. Peg Markle
Mr. & Mrs. Doc Oakman
Annie Ruth Marston
Bo & Linda Surber
Cynthia Martin
Robert & Carolyn Sullivan
Mr. Carroll Thomas May
Robert & Carolyn Sullivan
Mr. David McAdory
Larry & Patricia Henderson
Doug & Mary Sue Hutton
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Ora McCall
Mrs. Ruby R. Shelton
Mrs. Elaine McCoy
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry L. Ivey
Faye McDaniel
Doyle Daniel
Frances McKay
Mr. & Mrs. B. J. Pilgrim
Anthony Melancon
Mr. Donny Wilson
A. M. (Sonny) Merrell Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Allen
Mr. Edwin Miller
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Mrs. Edith Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Terry E. Champion
Rev. Bill & Mrs. Betty Mitchell
JoAnn & Winfred Johnston
Barbara Mize
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Allen
Dorris Morgan
Jack & Phyllis Henry
J. C. Morris
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart V. Allen
J. T. Morrison
Mr. & Mrs. Judd A. Morrison
Robert Nail
The Bill Curtis Family

Mr. Robert H. Owen Jr.
Mrs. Robert H. Owen Jr.
Brother Allen Parnell
Mr. Robert T. Jeffries
Mrs. Marie Patridge
Joyful Hearts SSC,
Arlington Hts BC
Charles Patterson
Tom & Linda Garrett
Mrs. Jerry Peters
Mr. & Mrs. Doc Oakman
Brad Pittman
Scott & Diane Pittman
Jamie Pittman
Randy & Karen Tabb
Jerry Wayne Pittman
Ad III SSC, North Columbia BC
Mr. John Powell
Mr. & Mrs. Greg L. Wilkison
Roger Prentiss
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Allen
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh
Mrs. Irene Price
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Mrs. Mary Carol (Munn) Prince
Robert & Carolyn Sullivan
Mrs. Edna Pugh
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick
Larry Rainey
Polly Dale, Mary Martha & Carro Berry
Mrs. Katherine Ramage
Jim & June Blair
Wayne Reed
Dan & Lona Southerland
Jack Reese
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs
Robert Revere
Bill, Stewart & Trent Curtis
Olivia Rhodes
Mr. Cecil B. Rhodes
Byron Rhodes
Sheila Turmage
Mrs. Russell Riley
Gerald & Betty Wigington
Christopher Rives
Charles & Nancy Wilbanks
Mrs. Corine Roberts
Mrs. Allyne Statham
Rev. Chester Roberts
Mrs. Allyne Statham
Juliette Sullivan Robinson
John & Nancy Miller
Frank & Sandra Crosthwait
Anthony Roche
Kaye & Curtis Buchanan
Margaret Rogers
Ken & Mary Nell Sartin
Petro Russell
Ms. Janice L. Russell
Guncy Sappington
Mrs. Evelyn Sappington
Traci Sasser
Barney & Paula Albritton
Evelyn Senn
Mr. & Mrs. Don Perkins
Wilma Shields
Rev. & Mrs. Phil Fancher
Frances Nell Shuffield
Randy & Karen Tabb
Mrs. Helen Shurley
Changing Lives SSC,
Hillcrest BC
Mrs. Maydene Slater
Cenit & Betty Wigington
Calvin Smith Sr.
Albert & Marcelle Hemphill
Bobby & Hilda Jo Woods
Ken Smith
The Bill Curtis Family
Melvin & Mary Nell Starrett
John & Mary Allred
Kenneth W. Statham Sr.
Mrs. Allyne Statham
Susan Marie Statham
Gary Allen Stegall
Carl & Eunice Woolery
Gabe Stewart
Sterling & Glynda Davis
Mrs. Lucette Still
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs
Mr. & Mrs. Ward Stokes
Mrs. Virginia S. Marcus
Harold Stribling
Deno & Gleniece Beach
Ruth Stubbs
Mrs. Nancy Shelton
John William & Annie Louise Tarver
The Tarver Foundation
Mr. Ardell Temple
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh

Charles Wayne Thaxton
Mr. & Mrs. David R. Daniel
Gregg Thomas
Frances & Rich Defenbaugh
Ronald L. Thornton
Chuck & Mary Henderson
Norma Tillman
Mrs. Nancy Shelton
Mr. Stephen Tillotson
Mr. & Mrs. Doc Oakman
Mrs. Felena P. "Snookie" Varnado
Mrs. Virginia S. Marcus
Doris Vick
Mr. & Mrs. Billy R. Barnett
Alicia Williamson Voge
Tom & Betty Coward
Mr. Sam Waggoner
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Jo Nita Wallace
Concord BC, McCall Creek
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Watts
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Arendale
Winnie Bell "Billie" Webber
Farmbelt Equipment Inc.
Bernadine Welch
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Allen
Joe White
Roy & Betty Hendricks
Mr. James White
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry L. Ivey
Earl Whittington
Mary Allen & Ric Varnell
Mrs. Hortense Whittington
Mr. & Mrs. John Wayne VanHorn
Chase Wilbanks
Charles & Nancy Wilbanks
Mrs. Rita Wilkison
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh
Rita Wells Wilkison
Lauren, Phil & Philip Hindelang
Matthew & Debbie Martin
Mr. Robert Williams
Bobby & Nadene Dye
Gary Winstead
Kemp, Williams, Stevenson & Bernard
David and Bobette Lang
Mrs. Jewel Witt
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry L. Ivey
Jimmy Woodward
Deno & Gleniece Beach

JANUARY, 2010

HONORS

Surgical Clinic Associates Emps.
Terry W. Hickman
Alexander Barrett
Taylor Barrett
Caleb Barrett
Taylor Barrett
Kip Barrett
Taylor Barrett
Spencer Barrett
Taylor Barrett
T. J. & Irma Frierson
Toby & Sherry Frierson
Dorothy & Joan Harelson
Bobby Phillips
Terry W. Hickman
Surgical Clinic Associates, P.A.
Tom & Joyce Jelfcoat
Spunk & Linda Brock
Kevin B. Jones
Mickey & Judy B. Hale
Shannon A. Jones
Mickey & Judy B. Hale
Martha Ann May Klaus
Mrs. Tee T. Hyland
Balfour & Mary Elizabeth Lipscomb
Spunk & Linda Brock
D. R. & Ann Roberts
Jack & Betty Terrell
Keith & Barbara Starrett
Spunk & Linda Brock
Stephen & Jen Cantrell & Finley
Ms. Dora B. Parkinson

MEMORIALS

Baby Faith
Jack & Bonnie Knight
James "Jimmy" Aldridge
Mr. & Mrs. B. A. Anders
Galilee BC
Mrs. Gladys Anderson
Mike, Janis & Ben Goff
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Brown
Gladys & Sharon Huff
Eric Lamar "Buddy" Applewhite
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Slay

Sandra Armstrong
Ms. Marilyn Laird
Mr. James L. "Jimmy" Ashley
Mr. John Everett
Mrs. Jimmie H. Mosley
Mr. Curtis Austin
Lena Norris SSC, Moselle Memorial
Mrs. Margaret Barham
Brotherhood Mutual Ins Co
Dale & Mary Ann Edgar
Jack & Ida Beth Jackson
Keith & Laurie Majure
Mr. & Mrs. James A. Newquist
Mary Catherine & Milton Rawles
Paul & Tracey Shelton
Doug & Laura St. Clair
Kay & Giles Ward
Ms. Mary Hart Whittington
Mr. & Mrs. Clay T. Wright
Johnny & Sylvia Ervin
Bob Barnett
John, Gail, Sandra & Virginia England
Kenneth Barnett
Ladies Ad. 4 SSC, McCool BC
McCool BC
Mr. James M. "Jimmy" Barnett
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry E. Breakfield
Kay Barrett
Mrs. Edwin B. King
M. M. Batson
John Rundle High School
Mrs. Amy Beard
T.E.L. SSC, Springfield BC
Bob & Dana Lyle
Mrs. Irene Smith
Mrs. George Beard
Mrs. Joy B. Roberts
Aaron Bennett
Mrs. Marilyn Laird
Gerald Berry
Carol & Mary Martha Berry
Mrs. Pauline Dale
Mr. Russell Bird
Lou & Libbie Bullock
Claver Blair
Mr. & Mrs. Carl E. DeLoach
Mrs. Edith Blush
Rev. & Mrs. R.L. Sigrest Jr.
Lucille Bodie
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Tucker
Bernice Bolls
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Brewer, Sr.
Jeff & Leola Dew
Mrs. Lizzie Boone
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox
Dot Bouchillon
Mrs. Ina A. Carmichael
Mrs. Faye Bounds
Wallace & Eileen Johnson
Kurt Bourne
Ms. Marilyn Laird
Mrs. Hazle Bowman
Wallace & Carol Clay
Mrs. Alma Boyd
Mrs. Bettye H. Martin
Guy Willie Brewer
Branch BC, Morton
Mrs. Betty Brister
Bill & Eva Moree
Charles Brown
Mrs. Charlotte Vickers
Mrs. Vertie Brown
Larry & Pam Gneini
Vertie Tedford Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Perkins
Aubrey Buckles
Stanton BC, Natchez
Mr. Jerry Bunch
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Sills
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Tynes
Augustine Burch
Beth and Dave Langston
John & Kathy Shackelford & Family
Mr. T. C. Burnett Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. George Henderson
Jimmy & Bonnie Hollingsworth
Becky Blocker Burnham
Mildred Blocker & Family
Mrs. Mary Nell Busby
James & Mary Alta Clark
Mrs. Tena Haskins
Mr. & Mrs. Krandal Howell
Ad. 7 SS Dept., FBC McComb

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Relationships Under Stress

I Peter 2:11-12; 3:1-12

By Bobby McKay

"I would love being a pastor if I didn't have to be around people." This statement was not said by yours truly, but rather it is one I have heard from time to time, usually in an attempt to be humorous. The truth of the matter is that no matter your ministry or profession, you are required to come in contact with people on a regular basis. While it is an understatement to say this presents challenges for all of us, it also affords us many opportunities to share Christ along the way.

In our study this week, Peter provides us practical insight on how we are to connect with those in the world, at home, and fellow believers. In a word, the lesson is about behavior. The sincerity and depth of our relation-

ships with others is largely on how we treat or relate with one another. Our conduct as believers is always on display.

Foreigners

(I Peter 2:11-12)

In the NASB, Christians are called "aliens and strangers." Have you ever felt like a foreigner? I recall last year while my wife and I were in a different state being in the midst of many people that spoke in a variety of languages. It is a strange feeling to be the only ones speaking English while many other cultures and languages are encompassing you. This is the image that Peter had in mind. It serves us well to remember that we are to be different from the sinful world. The longing may arise to withdraw from the world but that is not realistic. The reason we



McKay

cannot totally retreat is that Christ desires for us to make a lasting impact and difference on those that are not Christians. Peter reminds the reader that our good deeds will be seen by the lost and will also bring glory to God.

We are to live our lives holy before God and above reproach before mankind. May we never become too comfortable with our temporary homes on earth. Let us be thankful for the fact that with each passing day, we are one day closer to eternity with Him.

Family

(I Peter 3:1-7)

This passage is one of the most misinterpreted, abused, and wrongly quoted collection of verses in the entire Bible. Many who read these sentences get bogged down on the words "be submissive." Taking one or two words in a verse and attempting to build a theology around it is like arguing

that a lightning bug and lightning are the same thing because they use the same words. Back up and remember the context of our lesson: being an example in our relationships. Peter is not simply giving out marriage advice, he is addressing how homes and families can honor God even when those under the same roof may be Christians and non-Christians.

He tells the godly women who have husbands that are lost to "win them without a word." Peter knew that most men did not want to hear a sermon about how terrible they were. Rather, he encourages these ladies to model Christ in their behavior so that their spouses could see the difference Christ makes. He challenges them to not only be attractive in the outward, but also the inward. I love verse four when it says, "let it be the hidden person of the heart." This speaks of the perseverance and patience we should all possess when striving to reach our unsaved family members.

Fellowship

(I Peter 3:8-12)

The final aspect of our study is the item of our relationship with fellow Christians. I am convinced that the lost world cares little about what goes on in the Christian church. The biggest enemy to the local church is often times the church members themselves. The world is watching how we treat one another. We acknowledge that we are not perfect, but we are called to be different. Verse nine encourages us to "be a blessing and give a blessing." You cannot answer for what the members in your church are doing, but you and I can commit to lovingly support and pray for those that we worship and serve with. I close with a quote from Booker T. Washington. "There are two ways to exert one's strength. One is pushing down and the other is pulling up." I pray that you will be a person that looks for ways to lift up those around you.

McKay is pastor of Harpersville Church, Harpersville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Live up to the Gospel

Philippians 1:27-2:11

By Cyndi Grace

We are Christian wimps. Face it, "Jesus will give you a good life...free of sickness and heartache" is what we imply to a hurting world, but that is not the gospel message! I often say in conferences, "Jesus didn't die so you could have a good day! He died to reconnect you to a Most Holy God!" Jesus even warned us in John 16:33b "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Perhaps we have replaced the truth of the gospel with what we want because we are wimps and don't want to suffer.

Paul having just told the Philippians about his personal suffering now confronts them with the truth about what it means to truly follow Christ: For it has been given to you on Christ's behalf not only to believe

in Him, but also to suffer for Him... (vs 29)
Following Christ includes suffering; there is no getting around it, but we often act like this was only true of the early church. We believe things will be easy but the truth is that "easy" will never happen if we follow Christ completely.

I have recently re-read The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer and have found it very applicable to our lesson today. Bonhoeffer, who was killed by Hitler in 1945, had been a strong voice for the church to stand up against this dictator who was silencing the on every level. In his book, published in 1937, he describes two types of grace: cheap grace and costly grace. In short, (for the entire book is a discussion in this) "cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace



Grace

without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate... Costly grace is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows Him." The true disciple gives his all, often his own life. Living the truth of the gospel that Jesus taught includes suffering and Paul is crying to his beloved church in Philippi to hold on...don't give up even if you are called to give your life...reminding them this is NOT your home. So how can we do this? Together! Paul states we are not in this alone...he says in verse 27, "we stand firm in one spirit!" [emphasis mine] Chapter 2 continues by describing what unity is. Paul puts them on notice by stating if you have received anything from Christ then they could complete Paul's joy by doing some pretty important "thens" (which might just border on "meddling!") If we are truly saved,

truly one with Christ, then we, as a congregation, are to be like-minded, sharing the same love, in one spirit and one purpose. He is saying that to make this thing work and be victorious, we all have to be unified, listening to one voice...the voice of God. He continues, "do nothing from selfish ambition." In God's kingdom, He is in charge and all of His disciples are to follow His orders—both leadership and congregation! When we all want to do what we want there are divisions and fighting. It is often that way in our congregations and is evident when we argue over being concerned about advancing the gospel. Bonhoeffer describes two types of community (unity) in the church: true, spiritual community, and false, emotional community. The emotional community is one that is ruled by power, technique, and abilities [selfish ambition] and the spiritual community is ruled by the Word of God and the Spirit. The dif-

ference is our attitude and Paul gives them (and us) the model of Christ. I challenge you to read slowly and aloud verses 2:5-11. This is costly grace! Jesus Christ gave up everything for us—can we give any less? Dietrich Bonhoeffer understood that becoming a true disciple of Christ might cost him his life. Paul understood that following Christ might cost him his life. Peter, James, John...all understood that Jesus meant business when He said, "Unless you take up your cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:27) Somewhere in the twenty-first century, we have forgotten that grace is costly. Let me end today with a final quote from Bonhoeffer, "Costly grace is the sanctuary of God; it has to be protected from the world, and not thrown to the dogs." Today, let us live up to the truth of the gospel for it cost God everything.

Grace is a conference speaker and Bible teacher and is a member of First Church, Clinton.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcc.org.

THE BAPTIST Record

Powerful QR technology ready made for ministry

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Recently the news has focused on how the use of smartphones has given a wake-up call to politicians as the phones have been instrumental changing politics in Egypt, Tunisia, and Libya, but smartphones are not only toppling powerful dictators.

They also have been reported to have deposed another unchallenged king of the mountain: the personal computer.

Technology researchers reported that smartphone shipments surpassed PC shipments in the past quarter. Now some ministry leaders are getting the call to create smart phone outreach using mobile websites and bar code scanners. New Quick Response (QR) barcode technology is revolutionizing communications, and many churches are deciding it is wise for ministers to incorporate the smart phone into their outreach planning.

A QR code is a matrix barcode that can be read by smartphone cameras with QR scanner apps installed. An estimated 40% of all smartphone owners have downloaded a barcode scanning app. Mobile technology experts report that during the last six months of 2010 QR code scanning increased 1,200% across North America.

The QR codes are popping up everywhere, from your local grocery store to electronic billboards in Times Square. This new generation of bar codes is more powerful and flexible than previous ones. QR codes can hold more than 200 times the data of a regular barcode.

The QR codes were originally created in 1994 by a subsidiary of Toyota for the purpose of tracking parts in vehicle manufacturing. Now they are being used to quickly get information into people's hands. Marketers use QR codes for a variety of functions, ranging from directing the phone to a simple website to saving contact information.

The QR codes can send an e-mail or text message to a predetermined address. The codes also can prompt users to save event information in their phone's calendar.

It's not just businesses that are clicking with QR codes. Churches are starting to wise up about smart phones. First Church in Edmund, Ok., is using the

technology to send messages to mobile-savvy people in their community.

"We used QR codes extensively in a recent outreach to our community to raise awareness about our new 11:05 a.m. service. We included the codes in all our print material, banners, and in newspaper advertisements" said Kevin Pruitt, an associate pastor at the church.

"People can scan the QR and the code jumps their cell phone right to our mobile page. We also created stencil versions of our QR code using spray chalk to put them on the college campus sidewalks. It was exciting: Students were scanning the codes almost as fast as we were spraying them onto the sidewalks."

Here are a few ways churches could use QR codes:

- Engage visitors: Link visitors to a YouTube video giving them a virtual tour or highlighting different activities or small groups.

- Promote events: Drive people to a mobile website that gives more information about your upcoming event and the opportunity to register right on their phones.

- Outreach: Link people to a mobile website page that highlights the church's outreach efforts in the community or gives them access to helpful resources from your church.

- Stay connected: Allow people to opt-in to regular informational updates — whether text message updates or a link for them to "like" your Facebook fan page.

- Evangelism: Print media, outdoor advertisements and theater advertisements can point seekers to mobile websites, videos and hotlines where they can explore the Gospel.

As new and creative ways to utilize QR codes come on line, some best practices will ensure success and engagement:

- Help people understand what they are looking at and how to use it.

- Make sure the church is linked to a mobile-enabled website. Mobile-enabled sites provide a much better customer experience and prevent people from having to pull, pinch, and scroll a website that was designed for

a desktop computer and is difficult to view on a phone.

- Promote QR codes in many different places: bulletins, posters, flyers, websites, stickers, etc.

- Make sure there is good mobile service coverage. A creative campaign can be wasted in an area with poor cell signal.

- Test QR codes before launching. Besides ensuring it does what is intended, make sure it can be easily scanned by your audience. For instance, if a QR code is a projection screen, make sure it can be read from the position where people will be viewing the screen.

- Use a QR generator that creates easily scanned codes. Some services generate codes that can only be read by their specific scanner. Codes that can't be read by most scanners will cause frustration for your audience.

Here are a few free resources below to help get started using QR codes for church or ministry today:

Free QR code generators:

- Deliver: <http://delivr.com/qr-code-generator>
- Zing: <http://www.zxing.appspot.com/generator/>
- Kaywa: <http://qrcode.kaywa.com/>
- Keremerkant: <http://www.keremerkant.net/qr-code-and-2d-code-generator/>
- Google: <http://goo.gl>

Free QR code readers:

- BeeTagg: <http://beetagg.com>
- ScanLife: <http://scanlife.com>
- i-nigma: <http://i-nigma.com>



Congressman: Women's Day no cause for celebration in China

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — Females in China had little reason to celebrate the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day on March 8, a United States congressman and human rights activists said.

Rep. Chris Smith, (R-NJ), and fellow opponents of the communist giant's oppressive, population-control program told reporters Chinese women are suffering in unprecedented fashion under what is known as the one-child policy, which limits the number of children women can have.

"The coercive enforcement of China's one-child policy does more violence against women and girls than any other official policy on earth and any other official policy in the history of the world," said Reggie Littlejohn, president of Women's Rights Without Frontiers.

China's one-child policy generally limits couples in urban areas to one child and those in rural areas to two, if the first is a girl. Parents in cities now may have second babies if the husband and wife were only children.

The government also requires all women to have a birth permit before becoming pregnant, and it monitors the reproductive cycles of women of child-bearing age.

The state actions against women have included forced abortions on women in the eighth and ninth months of pregnancy, as well as compulsory sterilizations and infanticide, according to reports. Penalties for violations of the policy also have included fines, arrests, and the destruction of homes.

Smith called the policy the "most heinous attack on women ever." Reports have surfaced of

full-term babies being torn from their mothers' bodies and placed face-down in a bucket of water at the foot of the delivery table.

"[T]oo few people outside China understand the massive and cruel repression and violence perpetrated, intentionally and systematically, on hundreds of millions of women" by the government, he said.

International Women's Day has celebrated since 1911 what the sponsoring organization describes as the "economic, political, and social achievements of women." For more than 30 years, however, Chinese women have lived under a regime marked by forced abortion, coercive sterilization, and even infanticide of female babies as male children are seen as more desirable under the one-child policy.

The repercussions are mounting, Smith and Littlejohn said at

a Capitol Hill news conference on the eve of International Women's Day, and include:

- 500 suicides per day by Chinese women, according to the World Health Organization, making China the only country in the world with a higher female suicide rate than that of males.

- More than 120 male babies born for every 100 female babies born, in a growing gender imbalance that will leave by 2020 as many as 40 million Chinese men unable to find wives "because they have been exterminated," Smith said.

One of the fallouts from the gender imbalance is an increasing sex trafficking problem, the congressman told reporters.

"China is on the cusp of being the haven for sex traffickers," Smith said. "It is a magnet today that will only get worse because of the lack

of girls, ...directly attributable to the one-child public policy."

Smith called for an end to the apparent indifference demonstrated by the Obama administration and the United Nations.

He asked U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at a recent congressional hearing if President Obama had raised the issue of forced abortion with Chinese President Hu Jintao. Clinton said she did not know, Smith told reporters.

"That, in and of itself, underscores how this issue has been trivialized," Smith said.

He criticized U.S. funding of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which has been found to support China's one-child program. Obama has reinstituted support for UNFPA, providing more than \$100 million to the agency the last two years.